



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

20 October 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: October 20, 2005

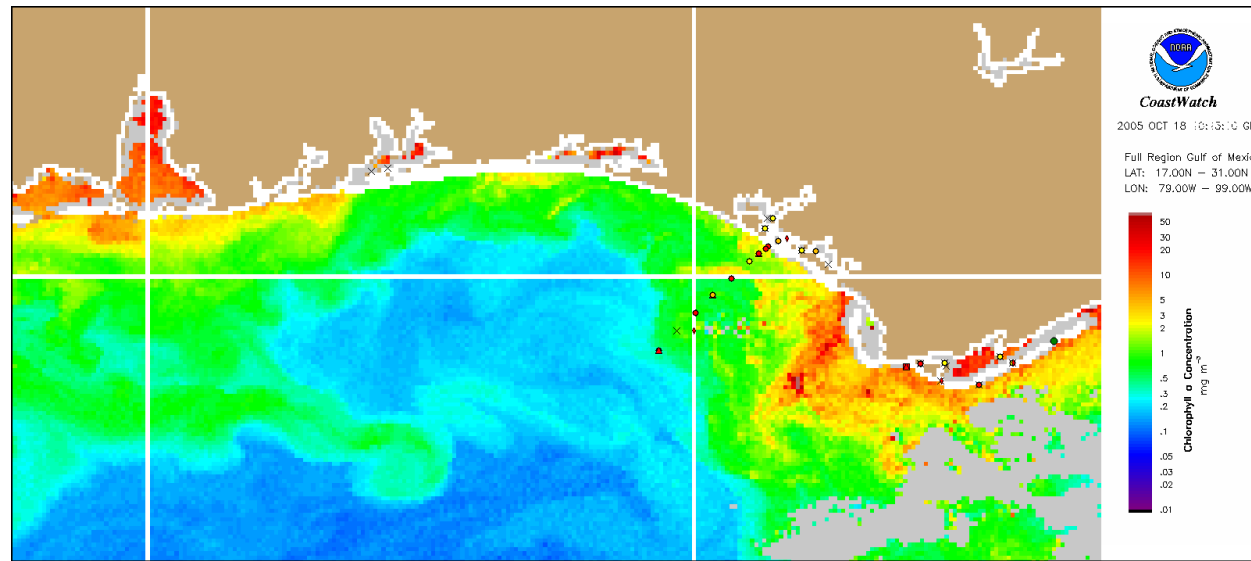
Conditions: Harmful algal blooms have been identified in Florida from Pinellas to Sarasota County, Dixie to Levy County, and in patches along Alabama and the Florida Panhandle. Patchy very low impacts are possible from Pinellas to Charlotte County and from Dixie to Levy today through Saturday. Variable impacts are expected Saturday night through Sunday due to Hurricane Wilma. Patchy moderate impacts are expected from Franklin to Okaloosa County, FL today through Friday, with patchy low impacts possible Saturday through Sunday. Patchy very low to low impacts are possible today through Sunday in Escambia, Santa Rosa, and Wakulla Counties in FL. Patchy low to moderate impacts are possible for Mobile and Baldwin County in AL today through Friday, with patchy very low impacts possible Saturday through Sunday. Dead fish have been reported in the last few days in Okaloosa, Walton, and Gulf counties. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

Analysis: Bloom remains in patches along the Florida Panhandle and Alabama Coast. FWRI recorded medium to high concentrations at St. Josephs Bay in Gulf County, and low concentrations in Franklin County (10/17). High chlorophyll levels remain alongshore from Wakulla to Bay County, with higher concentrations ($>20 \mu\text{g/L}$) offshore of Bay and Gulf Counties around $85^\circ 30'W$ $29^\circ 41'N$. Sampling is recommended. Dead fish were reported in Okaloosa, Walton, and Gulf counties this week. Appearance of dead fish and respiratory irritation may increase today and tomorrow with southeast and easterly winds; strong offshore winds will minimize coastal impacts Saturday and Sunday. Offshore and westerly transport is possible.

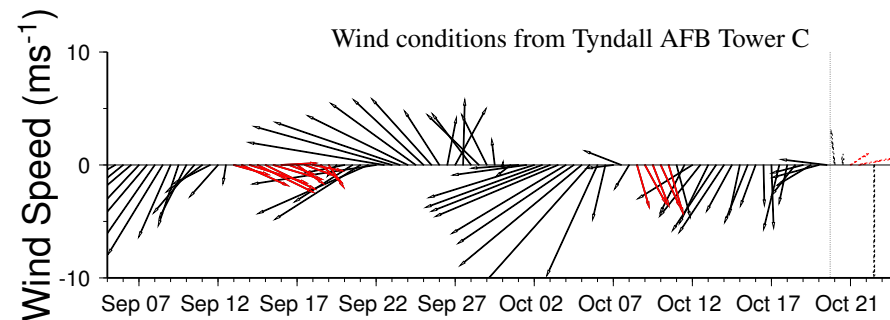
~Keller, Fisher

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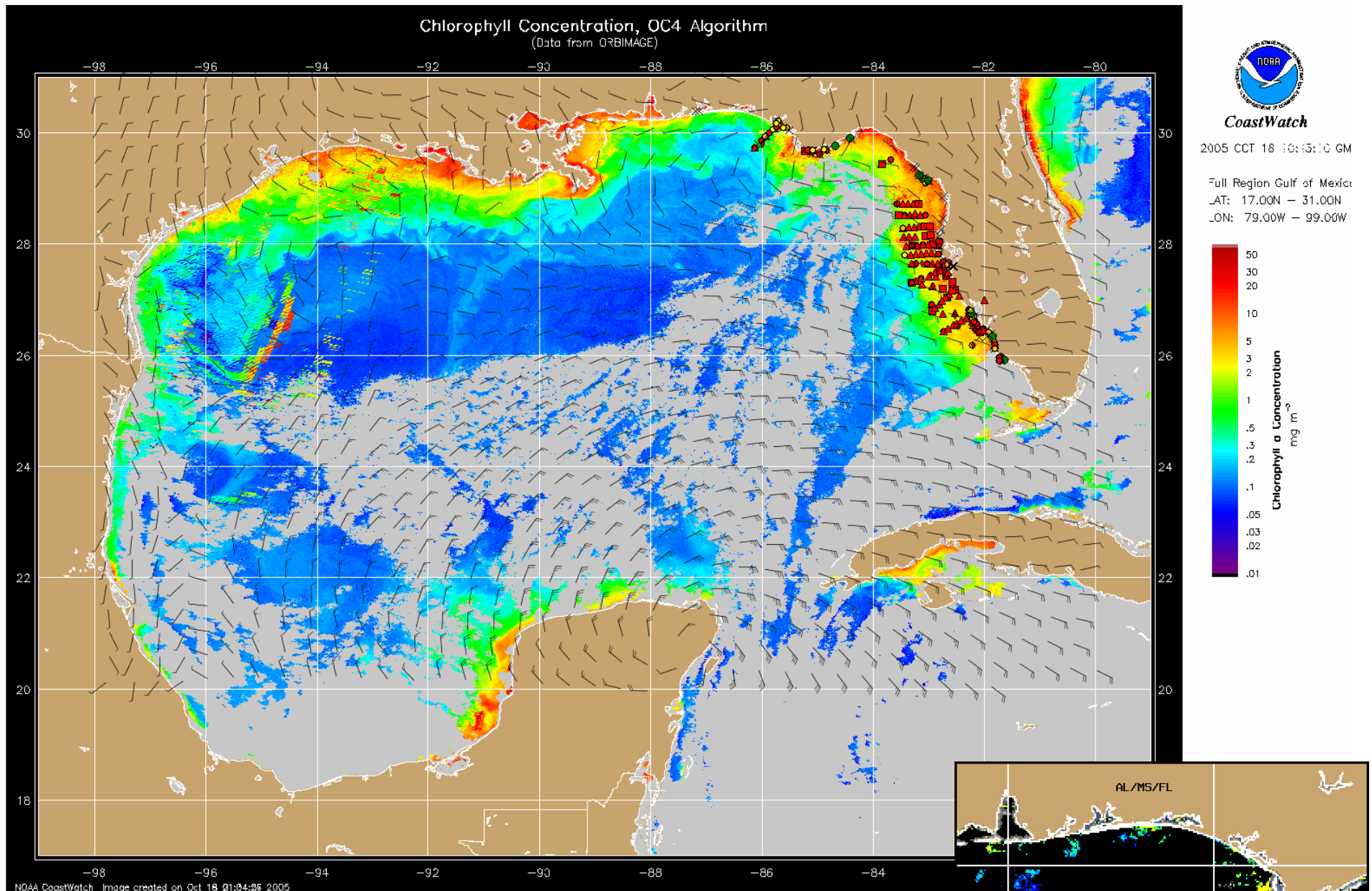
Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

NW Florida: Southeast to easterly winds today through Friday at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s). Strong northerly winds Saturday through Sunday at 10-25 knots (5-13 m/s).

AL: Southerly to southeasterly winds today at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s). North winds Friday, with southwest winds Friday night at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s). Strong northerly winds Saturday through Sunday at 15-25 knots (8-13 m/s).



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for October 21, 2005 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 30, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)